

Introduced by Senator Alquist

January 19, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 81—Relative to Asthma Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 81, as introduced, Alquist. Asthma Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of May 2006 as Asthma Awareness Month in order to increase awareness and understanding about asthma and educate those with the disease on the treatments available and the methods of preventing attacks.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Over two million Californians suffer from
2 asthma, and the illness is responsible for approximately 40,000
3 hospitalizations and 600 deaths annually in California; and
4 WHEREAS, An estimated 11.9 percent of Californians, or 3.9
5 million adults and children, have been diagnosed with asthma;
6 and
7 WHEREAS, Asthma disproportionately affects children and
8 young adults and, in California, its prevalence is highest among
9 children who are 12 to 17 years of age; and
10 WHEREAS, The self-reported lifetime occurrence of asthma
11 has increased 66 percent in the last 20 years in California; and
12 WHEREAS, Women experience asthma at a much higher rate
13 than men, African-Americans in California are three times more
14 likely than Caucasians to be hospitalized due to asthma, and rates
15 of hospitalization due to asthma among Hispanic and Asian
16 children in California have been increasing; and

1 WHEREAS, The effects of asthma include missed school and
2 work days, disruption of sleep and daily activities, emergency
3 medical visits for asthma exacerbation, and even death; and

4 WHEREAS, The direct and indirect costs of asthma in
5 California were estimated to be \$1.27 billion in 1998, with
6 hospitalizations representing the largest direct medical expense
7 related to asthma in 2000 and the average cost per hospitalization
8 equaling \$13,000; and

9 WHEREAS, Because the majority of hospitalizations from
10 asthma are thought to be preventable, the portion of the \$1.27
11 billion in total costs that is associated with these hospitalizations
12 is likely to be preventable as well; and

13 WHEREAS, It is important that every person with asthma be
14 diagnosed, receive appropriate treatment, learn how to manage
15 his or her asthma, and reduce exposure to environmental factors
16 that make his or her asthma worse; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
19 month of May 2006 as Asthma Awareness Month in order to
20 increase awareness and understanding about asthma and educate
21 those with the disease on the treatments available and the
22 methods of preventing attacks; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.